

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing contrast in a digital projector, comprising:

positioning a first optical component and a second optical component along a light path, said first optical component and said second optical component being separated by a gap; and

sealing a perimeter of said gap with a sealant, said sealant being positioned around said light path.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

evacuating said gap to provide substantially a vacuum in said gap.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said first optical component is a digital micro-mirror device cover plate and said second optical component is a total internal reflection prism.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first optical component is a digital micro-mirror device cover plate and said second optical component is a total internal reflection prism.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sealant is positioned substantially along a perimeter of at least one of said first and second optical components.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).
11. (Canceled).
12. (Currently Amended) A system for enhancing contrast in a digital projector, comprising:
 - a first optical component and a second optical component positioned along a light path and being separated by a gap; and
 - a sealant adapted to seal said gap substantially along a perimeter of said gap,
said sealant being positioned around said light path.
13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said gap is evacuated to provide substantially a vacuum in said gap.
14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said first optical component is a digital micro-mirror device cover plate and said second optical component is a total internal reflection prism.
15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said first optical component is a digital micro-mirror device cover plate and said second optical component is a total internal reflection prism.
16. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said sealant is positioned along a perimeter of at least one of said first and second optical components.
17. (Canceled).
18. (Canceled).
19. (Canceled).
20. (Canceled).
21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A system for enhancing contrast in a digital projector, comprising:

a first optical component and a second optical component positioned along a light path and being separated by a gap; and

means for sealing said gap substantially along a perimeter of said gap, said means for sealing being positioned around said light path.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein said gap is evacuated to provide substantially a vacuum in said gap.

25. (Currently Amended) A system for enhancing contrast in a digital projector, comprising:

a first optical component and a second optical component positioned along a light path and being separated by a gap; and

means for restricting airflow through said gap, said gap having one of air and a substantial vacuum therein.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) A digital projector, comprising:

at least two optical components positioned along a light path;

a gap formed between two of said optical components; and

a sealant adapted to seal said gap substantially along a perimeter of said gap, said sealant being positioned around said light path.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein said gap is evacuated to provide substantially a vacuum in said gap.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said gap is filled with air.

30. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein said gap is filled with air.